



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
59TH MEDICAL WING (AETC)  
LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS

14 MAR 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SGVT

ATTN: CAPT MICHAEL A GLOTFELTER

FROM: 59 MDW/SGVU

SUBJECT: Professional Presentation Approval

1. Your paper, entitled Psychiatric History, Deployments, and Impacts of Seeking Mental Health Care in a Combat Theater presented at Society of Behavioral Medicine 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions, Washington DC 30 March – 2 April 2016 with MDWI 41-108, and has been assigned local file #16117.
2. Pertinent biographic information (name of author(s), title, etc.) has been entered into our computer file. Please advise us (by phone or mail) that your presentation was given. At that time, we will need the date (month, day and year) along with the location of your presentation. It is important to update this information so that we can provide quality support for you, your department, and the Medical Center commander. This information is used to document the scholarly activities of our professional staff and students, which is an essential component of Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center (WHASC) internship and residency programs.
3. Please know that if you are a Graduate Health Sciences Education student and your department has told you they cannot fund your publication, the 59th Clinical Research Division may pay for your basic journal publishing charges (to include costs for tables and black and white photos). We cannot pay for reprints. If you are 59 MDW staff member, we can forward your request for funds to the designated wing POC.
4. Congratulations, and thank you for your efforts and time. Your contributions are vital to the medical mission. We look forward to assisting you in your future publication/presentation efforts.

LINDA STEEL-GOODWIN, Col, USAF, BSC  
Director, Clinical Investigations & Research Support

# **PROCESSING OF PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

<b>TO:</b> Clinical Research Division/SGVU (59 MDW/SGVU)	<b>FROM:</b> Author's Name, Rank, Grade, Office Symbol MICHAEL A. GLOTFELTER, Capt, SGOW	<b>PROTOCOL NUMBER:</b> FWH20150007N
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**PROTOCOL TITLE - [NOTE: For each new release of medical research or technical information as a publication/presentation, a new 59 MDW Form 3039 must be submitted for review and approval.]**  
 Psychiatric History, Deployments, and Impacts of Seeking Mental Health Care in a Combat Theater

**1. TITLE OF MATERIAL TO BE PUBLISHED OR PRESENTED**

Psychiatric History, Deployments, and Impacts of Seeking Mental Health Care in a Combat Theater

**2. FUNDING RECEIVED FOR THIS STUDY?** ☐ YES ☒ NO **FUNDING SOURCE:**

**3. IS THIS MATERIAL CLASSIFIED?** ☐ YES ☒ NO

**4. IS THIS MATERIAL SUBJECT TO ANY LEGAL RESTRICTIONS FOR PUBLICATION OR PRESENTATION THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (CRADA), MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT (MTA), INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AGREEMENT ETC.?** ☐ YES ☒ NO

**NOTE:** If the answer is "YES" then attach a copy to the Publications/Presentations Request Form.

**5. MATERIAL IS FOR (Check appropriate box or boxes for approval with this request.)** ☒ DOMESTIC RELEASE ☐ FOREIGN RELEASE  
 (ATTACH COPY OF MATERIAL TO BE PUBLISHED/PRESENTED)

☐ PUBLICATION/JOURNAL (List intended publication/journal)

☐ PUBLICATION ABSTRACT (List intended journal.)

☒ POSTER (To be demonstrated at meeting/Name of Meeting, City, State, and Date of Meeting)  
 Society of Behavioral Medicine 37th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions, Washington DC, 30 Mar 16-02 Apr 16

☐ PLATFORM PRESENTATION (At civilian institutions/Name of Meeting, State, Date of Meeting)

☐ OTHER (Describe: Name of Meeting, City, State, and Date of Meeting)

**6. WHAT IS THE EXPECTED DATE YOUR PRESENTATION/PUBLICATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEFENSE TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER (DTIC)?**

**POINT OF CONTACT**

**7. WHO IS THE PRIMARY 59 MDW POINT OF CONTACT? (Last, First, MI.) (Include email)** **DUTY PHONE/PAGER No.**

**AUTHORSHIP AND CO-AUTHOR(S) (List in the order they will appear in the manuscript)**

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME AND MI.	GRADE/RANK	SQUADRON/GROUP/OFFICE SYM	INSTITUTION (If not 59 MDW)
a. Primary/corresponding author Colleen Varga	Maj	559 THLS/SGPK	
b. Michael Glotfelter	Capt	59 TRS/SGOW	
c. Anderson Rowan	Col	60 MDTs/CC	60 MDG
d. Jeffrey Haibach	GS-09	N/A	Department of Veterans Affairs
e.			
f.			
g.			

**I CERTIFY ANY HUMAN OR ANIMAL RESEARCH RELATED STUDIES WERE APPROVED AND PERFORMED IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH 32 CFR 219, AFMAN 40-401\_IP AND 59 MDWI 41-108. I HAVE READ THE FINAL VERSION OF THE ATTACHED MATERIAL AND CERTIFY THAT IT IS AN ACCURATE MANUSCRIPT FOR PUBLICATION AND/OR PRESENTATION.**

**AUTHOR'S PRINTED NAME/RANK/GRADE**  
 Michael A. Glotfelter, Capt, USAF, BSC

**AUTHOR'S SIGNATURE**

GLOTFELTER.MICHAEL.A.1404200  
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Digitally signed by GLOTFELTER.MICHAEL.A.14042000  
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 Date: 2016.03.01 09:01:26 -0500

**DATE**

**APPROVING AUTHORITY'S PRINTED NAME, RANK, TITLE**  
 William C. Isler, Lt Col USAF, BSC

**APPROVING AUTHORITY'S SIGNATURE**

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 Date: 2016.03.01 09:45:20 -0500

**DATE**

1 Mar 16

# PROCESSING OF PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

## 1st INDORSEMENT (SGVU Use Only)

TO: Clinical Research Division (59 MDW/SGVU) (Contact 292-7141 for email instructions)	1. DATE RECEIVED 3/3/2016	2. ASSIGNED PROCESSING REQUEST FILE NUMBER 16117
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3. DATE REVIEWED 3 Mar 2016	4. DATE FORWARDED TO PA
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### 5. AUTHOR CONTACTED FOR RECOMMENDED OR NECESSARY CHANGES

☐ NO ☒ YES If yes give date: 3 Mar 2016 ☐ N/A

### 6. COMMENTS

☒ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED

The poster presentation is approved.

PRINTED NAME, RANK/GRADE, TITLE OF REVIEWER  
Rocky Calcote, PhD  
Clinical Research Administrator

DATE

SIGNATURE OF REVIEWER

CALCOTE.ROCKY.D.1178245844

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Date: 2016.03.11 07:59:46 -0600

## 2nd INDORSEMENT (PA Use Only)

TO: 59 MDW OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (PA)	1. DATE RECEIVED Mar 11, 2016	2. DATE FORWARDED TO 59 MDW/SGVU Mar 11, 2016
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6. COMMENTS ☒ APPROVED (In compliance with security and policy review directives.) ☐ DISAPPROVED

PRINTED NAME, RANK/GRADE, TITLE OF REVIEWER  
Christopher Carwile, TSgt/E-6, NCOIC, PA

DATE

SIGNATURE OF REVIEWER

CARWILE.CHRISTOPHER.S  
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DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=NSA, ou=USAF,  
cn=CARWILE.CHRISTOPHER.S  
Date: 2016.03.11 09:23:17 -0600

## 3rd INDORSEMENT (SGVU Use Only)

TO: 59 MDW/SGVU

1. DATE RECEIVED

2. SENIOR AUTHOR NOTIFIED BY PHONE OF APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL: ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ Could not be reached ☐ Left message

3. DATE WRITTEN NOTICE OF APPROVAL AND CLEARANCE MAILED TO AUTHOR:

4. COMMENTS ☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED

PRINTED NAME, RANK/GRADE, TITLE OF REVIEWER

SIGNATURE OF REVIEWER

DATE



# Psychiatric History, Deployments and Impacts of Seeking Care in a Combat Theater

Colleen M. Varga<sup>1</sup>, Michael Ann Giotfelter<sup>1</sup>, Anderson A. Rowan<sup>2</sup>, & Jeffrey P. Haibach<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>JBSA-Lackland, United States Air Force; <sup>2</sup>Travis Air Force Base, United States Air Force; <sup>3</sup>U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

## Background

- Rates of mental health problems in service members deployed to Afghanistan continue to rise, with service members with 3+ deployments displaying the highest rates of psychological problems and use of psychiatric medications (MEDCOM, USCENTCOM, & USFOR-A, 2011)
- Combat exposure has been linked to substantial morbidity including mental health disorders, substance abuse, job loss, unemployment, divorce, and domestic abuse (Prigerson, Maciejewski, & Rosenheck, 2002)

- Mental health problems reported after returning from deployment have been significantly associated with combat experience, referral for mental health care, and attrition from military service (Bray et al., 2009)
  - However, research suggests that mental health care resources are underutilized by those who need them; those service members most in need of intervention may be the most likely to perceive and be impacted by barriers to care (Hoge et al., 2004; Olmsted et al., 2011)
- Repeat deployers may be at higher risk for duty limiting recommendations or career impacts (Rowan et al., in press), but they also may advance in their careers and develop increased coping skills that can serve as protective factors

- Limited research has directly examined the impact of prior mental health history, including treatment, on the mental health of service members or impact it has on seeking mental health care in deployment
  - In one study of service members who deployed to Iraq, results identified no diminished functioning in those with pre-existing mental health conditions (Larsen et al., 2011)
  - Another study found that members with pre-existing mental health conditions were more likely to seek mental health care, but also more likely to be demoted or separated post-deployment (Crain et al., 2011)

The views expressed are those of the authors and do not reflect the official views or policy of the Department of Defense or its Components. The voluntary, fully informed consent of the subjects used in this research was obtained as required by 32 CFR 219 and DoDI 3216.02, AFM 40-402, Protection of Human Subjects in Biomedical and Behavioral Research. Contact Information: Colleen M. Varga, PhD, MAJ, USAF: colleen.varga.1@us.af.mil

## Methods

- This study is a retrospective review of clinical records from three U.S. military Combat and Operational Stress Control (COSC) units in Afghanistan
- Data were drawn from the mental health records of 1,639 Army service members (Table 1) presenting for outpatient mental health services while deployed in Afghanistan from years 2006-2008

Table 1. Sample Characteristics

	Mean = 27 years Range = 18-58 years
Age	
Male	84%
Married	50%
Enlisted	92%
Regular Army	77%
Guard	16%
Reserves	7%
Prior Deployment	49%
Prior Mental Health Treatment	43%
Career Impacting Recommendations	20%

- Statistical analyses included:
  - Frequency and descriptive analyses to assess sample demographic characters.
  - Multiple logistic regression models, adjusted and unadjusted, to assess associations between, 1) prior deployments and career impacting recommendations, and 2) prior mental health treatment and career impacting recommendations.
  - Listwise deletion for missing data and all analyses were run in SPSS version 23.

## Results

- In an unadjusted logistic regression model, service members with at least one prior deployment had a 38% greater odds (Table 2) of receiving career-impacting recommendations than those without a prior deployment. However the association was no longer significant after adjusting for age, gender, marital status, rank, and military status.
- Service members with prior mental health treatment had a 58% lower odds of receiving career-impacting recommendations than those without prior mental health treatment, after adjusting for age, gender, marital status, rank, military status, and number of prior deployments. Demographic adjustment did not result in substantial changes to the association.

Table 2. Associations Between Prior Deployment or Prior Mental Health Treatment and Career Impacting Recommendations

	Unadjusted		Adjusted for demographic variables <sup>a</sup>	
	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI
Prior Deployment (1 or more)	1.38	[1.06, 1.80]	1.06	[0.78, 1.43]
Prior Mental Health Treatment	0.43	[0.34, 0.56]	0.42 <sup>b</sup>	[0.33, 0.56]

Note. OR = odds ratio. <sup>a</sup>Adjusted for age, gender, marital status, rank, and military status. <sup>b</sup>Also adjusted for number of prior deployments.

## Conclusions

- Among Army service members who had a clinical mental health encounter during deployment, prior deployment was not associated with career impacting recommendations.
- Prior mental health treatment appeared to be protective against career impacting recommendations; however, this conclusion is limited by the observational methods of the study.
- Further confirmatory research is warranted as is exploratory research to assess potential mediating and moderating factors on associations between deployment, mental health treatment, and service member behavior resulting in career impacting recommendations.

## References

- Bray, R. M., Pemberton, M. R., Hourani, L. L., Witt, M., Rae Olmsted, K. L., Brown, J., ... Bradshaw, M. R. (2009). 2008 Department of Defense Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Active Duty Military Personnel. Research Triangle Park, NC: Research Triangle Institute.
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- Hoge, C.W., Castro, C.A., Messer, S.C., McGurk, D., Cotling, D.I., & Koffman, R.L. (2004). Combat duty in Iraq and Afghanistan: Mental health problems, and barriers to care. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 351, 13-22.
- Larson, G., Hammer, P., Conway, T., Schmied, E., Galameau, M., Konoake, P., & Johnson, D. (2011). Predeployment and in-theater diagnoses of American military personnel serving in Iraq. *Psychiatric Services*, 62(1), 15-21.
- Olmsted, K.L.R., Brown, J.M., Vandemaas-Peeler, R., Tucker, S.T., Johnson, R.E., & Gibbs, D.A. (2011). Mental health and substance abuse treatment stigma among soldiers. *Military Psychology*, 23, 52-64.
- Prigerson, H.G., Maciejewski, P.K., & Rosenheck, R.A. (2002). Population attributable fractions of psychiatric disorders and behavioral outcomes associated with combat exposure among US men. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92, 59-63.





**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND**

25 February 2016

**MEMORANDUM FOR 59 TRS/SGOWM**

**FROM: 502 ISG/JA**

**SUBJECT: Ethics Review for Poster Presentation**

1. A request for a legal review of a poster presentation titled "Psychiatric History, Deployments and Impacts of Seeking Care in a Combat Theater" was submitted by Capt Michael Glotfelter. The abstract and any accompanying presentation materials will be legally permissible once the required disclaimer is included.
2. **FACTS:** An abstract titled "Psychiatric History, Deployments and Impacts of Seeking care in a Combat Theater" was submitted for a poster presentation. Capt Glotfelter plans to present this research at the Society of Behavioral Medicine 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Scientific Session in Washington, DC, 30 March – 02 April 2016. The abstract lists Capt Glotfelter's position as "Clinical Health Psychology Fellow, United States Air Force." The abstract did not include the required disclaimer.
3. **LAWS AND REGULATIONS:** DoD 5500.07-R, Joint Ethics Regulation (JER), section 3-305 lays out rules governing "Teaching, Speaking and Writing." A DoD employee who uses or permits the inclusion of his title or position as a biographical detail in connection with a writing incurs potential disclaimer requirements. If the presentation will "deal in significant part with any ongoing or announced policy, program or operation" of the Department of Defense or its components, the presenter is required to include a disclaimer that states the "views presented are those of the speaker or author and do not necessarily represent the views of DoD or its components."
4. **ANALYSIS:** The abstract focuses on utilization of mental health services within the context of deployment. The subject matter described in the abstract can be said to "deal in significant part with an ongoing or announced policy, program or operation" of the Department of Defense, specifically, the United States Army. The abstract identifies Capt Glotfelter by his Air Force position and his contribution as Co-Author. The disclaimer must be included on the abstract, the poster and given verbally or included on a slide during the any platform presentation. A Public Affairs review will be needed if it has not already been obtained. There are no apparent conflicts of interest that would prohibit presentation of this research at this professional meeting.

5. CONCLUSION: The abstract and any accompanying presentation materials will be legally permissible once the required disclaimer is included. The abstract presented for review should include the disclaimer required by the JER. The disclaimer must also be included on the poster and in the platform presentation. If you have any questions, please call the undersigned at 671-5782.



JESSE BOLAÑOS  
Legal Intern

I concur.



ARLENE R. CHRISTILLES  
Chief, Civil Law